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METHODS FOR MATCHING, SELECTING, AND/OR CLASSIFYING BASED ON
RIGHTS MANAGEMENT AND/OR OTHER INFORMATION

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 136-150, and 156-185 without prejudice, amend claim 151, and add new claims 186-195 as indicated in the Appendix. Following entry of the amendments, the claims will read as follows:

151. (Amended) A method including the following steps:

creating a secure container;

associating a first rule with the secure container, the first rule at least in part governing use of at least some of the secure container contents, the first rule at least in part specifying potential users or recipients of the secure container contents, the specification being based at least in part on a class to which the potential users or recipients have been assigned;

sending the secure container to a first remote party;

the first remote party embedding a first content object in the secure container;

receiving a request for a content object from a potential user or recipient, the request specifying a desired class of rights management information;

determining that the first content object has rights management information associated with it that belongs to the desired class;

sending the secure container, including the embedded first content object, to the potential user or recipient;

evaluating a digital certificate associated with the potential user or recipient;

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determining, based at least in part on the digital certificate, that the potential user or recipient has been assigned to a class; and

based on the determination, and at least in part under control of the first rule, making at least some of the secure container contents available to the potential user or recipient.

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186. (New) The method of claim 151, in which the desired class of rights management information comprises rights management information specifying predefined limitations on redistribution of content.

187. (New) The method of claim 151, in which the desired class of rights management information comprises rights management information specifying predefined limitations on modification of content.

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188. (New) The method of claim 151, in which the desired class of rights management information comprises rights management information specifying predefined limitations on the cost of acquiring content.

189. (New) The method of claim 151, in which the desired class of rights management information comprises rights management information specifying predefined limitations on the reporting of information regarding usage of content.

190. (New) The method of claim 151, in which the steps of evaluating a digital certificate associated with the potential user or recipient and determining, based at least in part on the digital certificate, that the potential user or recipient has been assigned to a class, are performed before the step of sending the secure container, including the embedded first content object, to the potential user or recipient.

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191. (New) A method including the following steps:

creating a secure container;

assigning a potential user or recipient to a class, the assignment being based at least in part on information regarding the potential user or recipient's previous use of content;

associating a first rule with the secure container, the rule at least in part governing use of at least some of the secure container contents, the first rule at least in part specifying potential users or recipients of the secure container contents, the specification being based at least in part on the class to which the potential users or recipients have been assigned,

sending the secure container to a first remote party;

the first remote party embedding a content object in the secure container;

sending the secure container, including the embedded content object, to the potential user or recipient;

evaluating a digital certificate associated with the potential user or recipient;

determining, based at least in part on the digital certificate, that the potential user or recipient has been assigned to a class; and

based on the determination, and at least in part under control of the first rule, making at least some of the secure container contents available to the potential user or recipient.

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192. (New) A method as in claim 191, in which the information regarding the potential user or recipient's previous use of content comprises information regarding the type of rights management information associated with content items the potential user or recipient has previously used.

193. (New) A method as in claim 191, in which the information regarding the potential user's previous use of content comprises information regarding the type of content the potential user or recipient has previously used.

194. (New) A method as in claim 191, in which the information regarding the potential user or recipient's previous use of content is received from a second remote party, the second remote party having collected the information from the potential user or recipient.

195. (New) A method as in claim 191, in which the steps are performed in the order recited.

REMARKS

After amendment, claims 151-155 and 186-195 are pending. Claim 151 has been amended to more appropriately define what Applicants regard as their invention. Claims 186-195 have been added. Support for the new claims and amendments can be found, for example, at page 11, line 1 through page 12, line 10; page 31, line 8 through page 36, line 23; page 127, line 21 through page 132, line 6; page 132, line 11 through page 143, line 4; page 147, line 1 through page 148, line 12; page 156, line 21 through page 157, line 2; and page 167, line 15 through page 177, line 7 of the specification.

No new matter has been added.

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